Intermediary Foundation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

REGISTER

House of Representatives of the States General
The Chairman
Drs.MA Martin Bosma
PO Box 20018
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Subject: Situation in Gaza

Mierlo, July 15, 2024

I request the President of the House of Representatives of the States General - urgently - to to inform members of parliament and political party factions about this letter.

After voting, the Members of Parliament rejected a motion by Member Van Baarle DENK (No. 2907 kst-21501-02-2907 ISSN 0921 - 7371 The Hague 2024 General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council MOTION BY MEMBER VAN BAARLE Submitted on 23 May 2024) To comply with the arrest warrant of the International Criminal Court against Netanyahu on Dutch territory.

On May 27th I sent a letter to the members of the House of Representatives. We will not get any further with the freewheeling issue of Israel vs Gaza! The recent decision of the International Court of Justice ordering Israel to immediately halt its military offensive in Rafah, after it recognized genocide as a plausible risk, and by the request of the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants. for Israeli leaders on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. “In this context, the continued transfers of arms to Israel can be seen as willfully and knowingly providing assistance to operations that violate international human rights and international humanitarian law, and can result in profit from such assistance.”

States and companies – including the State of the Netherlands – must immediately end arms deliveries to Israel, otherwise they risk responsibility for
human rights violations.

The transfer of arms and ammunition to Israel could constitute a serious violation of human rights and international humanitarian law and risk making the state complicit in international crimes, possibly including genocide, UN experts said today, reiterating their demand for an immediate end to the transfers.

In line with recent calls by the Human Rights Council and UN independent experts for states to cease the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, ammunition and other military equipment to Israel, arms manufacturers that supply Israel – including
BAE Systems, Boeing, Caterpillar, GeneralDynamics, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Oshkosh, Rheinmetall AG, Rolls-RoycePower Systems, RTX and ThyssenKrupp – also make

an end to transfers, even if they are carried out under existing export licenses.

“By sending weapons, parts, components and ammunition to Israeli forces, these companies risk being complicit in serious violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law,” the experts said.

An end to transfers must also include indirect transfers through intermediary countries that could ultimately be used by Israeli forces, especially in the ongoing attacks on Gaza.

The UN experts said arms companies should systematically and periodically conduct enhanced human rights due diligence to ensure their products are not used in ways that violate international human rights and international humanitarian law.

Financial institutions that invest in these arms companies are also being targeted.
Investors such as Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung, Amundi Asset Management, Bank of America, BlackRock, Capital Group, Causeway Capital Management, Citigroup, Fidelity Management & Research, INVESCO Ltd, JP Morgan Chase, Harris Associates, Morgan Stanley, Norges Bank Investment Management, Newport Group, Raven'swing Asset Management, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance, State Street Corporation, Union Investment Privatfonds, The Vanguard Group, Wellington and Wells Fargo & Company are urged to take action. Failure to prevent or mitigate their business relationships with these arms manufacturers that transfer weapons to Israel could lead to the disappearance of weapons that are directly linked to and contribute to human rights violations, with implications for complicity in potential atrocities, the experts said. “Weapons initiate, sustain, exacerbate and prolong armed conflicts, as well as other forms of oppression. Therefore, the availability of weapons is an essential precondition for the commission of war crimes and human rights violations, including by private arms companies,” the spokesperson said. The experts said the ongoing Israeli military onslaught is characterized by indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on civilian populations and infrastructure, including through extensive use of explosive and incendiary weapons in densely populated areas,

as well as through the destruction and damage of essential and life-sustaining weapons. civilian infrastructure, including housing and shelters, health care, education, water and sanitation. These attacks have resulted in more than 37,000 deaths in Gaza and 84,000 wounded. Of these deaths and wounded, an estimated 70 percent are women and children. Today, children in Gaza constitute the largest child amputee population in the world, as a result of severe injuries sustained during the war. These operations have also resulted in severe damage to the environment and climate. “The need for an arms embargo on Israel and for investors to take decisive action is more urgent than ever, particularly in light of the obligations of States and the responsibilities of businesses under the Geneva Conventions, the Genocide Convention, international human rights treaties and the UN

Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights," the UN experts said. The experts paid tribute to the continued work of journalists who have documented and reported on the devastating impact of these weapons systems on civilians in Gaza, and human rights defenders and lawyers, among other stakeholders, who work to hold states and companies accountable for transferring arms to Israel. They also engaged with states and the companies and investors involved on these issues.

I hereby request that my letter of May 27, 2024 be considered as repeated and inserted.

IFUD of Human Rights

Chair

JP van den Wittenboer

For questions regarding UN Independent Experts, you may also contact Dharisha Indraguptha (dharisha.indraguptha@un.org) or John Newland (john.newland@un.org)

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